



The Connector

MCCES Puts On A Safety Show

By LCpl M.C. Nerl

MCCES held the 2nd Safety Fair to ensure the students completed annual safety training, while also enjoying motorcycle stunt shows and booth exhibits from various organizations.

The students and MCCES staff were the primary body of attendees at the event, but it was also open to all personnel aboard the base, said Dr. Joyce Teters.

Training was also done on suicide prevention and many other topics aside from motorcycle and vehicle safety.

Aside from training, many exhibits were offered. PMO hosted a water tank to dunk police

in to raise money for their MC Ball. The fire department was also present with an earthquake house exhibit to show people what it is like in a house on fire and filled with smoke.

SSgt Gene Smith, who suffered an alcohol-related accident, gave his point of view and story behind where he is in life right now in hopes it would change people's perspectives on motorcycle safety and how they make decisions when riding.

"We're trying to promote general safety," said Teters. "But we're starting to heighten the value of motorcycle safety. We're losing lots of Marines because accidents involving

motorcycles, and nobody wants that."

Teters said the tragedy of the 71 Marines the Marine Corps has lost in vehicle accidents in fiscal year 2008 is too much, and every day service needs to concentrate on what everyone does when they are involved on, or know someone who operates a vehicle.



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**08 Ball Photos
Inside**

GETTING READY - FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS OPEN SEASON



This year the Federal Employee Health Benefits Open Season will run from 10 November through 8 December 2008. During this period employees may enroll, disenroll or make health benefit changes.

As premiums and some services have changed for 2009, it is recommended that employees review the materials for cost and plan changes. Plans may be reviewed at the OPM website at: <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health>.

Federal employee health benefits include: Health, Dental, Vision, Long-Term Spending Accounts



and Long-Term Care Insurance Programs.

When reviewing plans, employees will be under the "non-postal" rate and payment is taken on a bi-weekly basis. To make health care elections you will need to know the Enrollment Code for the health, dental or vision care plan you choose to use; these codes are found within the booklets available on the above website.

For more detailed information and to make your elections use the below systems or you may call the Benefits Hot Line at 1-888-320-2917:



EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS

<http://www.civilianbenefits.hroc.navy.mil/>

VISION AND DENTAL CARE
<https://www.benefeds.com/>

FEDERAL LONG TERM
CARE INSURANCE
<http://www.ltcfeds.com/>

FEDERAL SAVINGS
ACCOUNTS:
<https://www.fsafeds.com>



Run for the Fallen-update



On 14 June 2008, Run for the Fallen (RFTF) began their quest by running across the United States. Each mile was dedicated to one fallen service member from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Over 4,000 miles were completed on 24 August where a closing ceremony was held at the Arlington National Cemetery.

On 20-21 June, RFTF ran up the Morongo Grade, through Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms, on their way east.

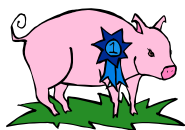
Over 80 memorials consisting of an American flag and placard were placed in memory of fallen in our local area.



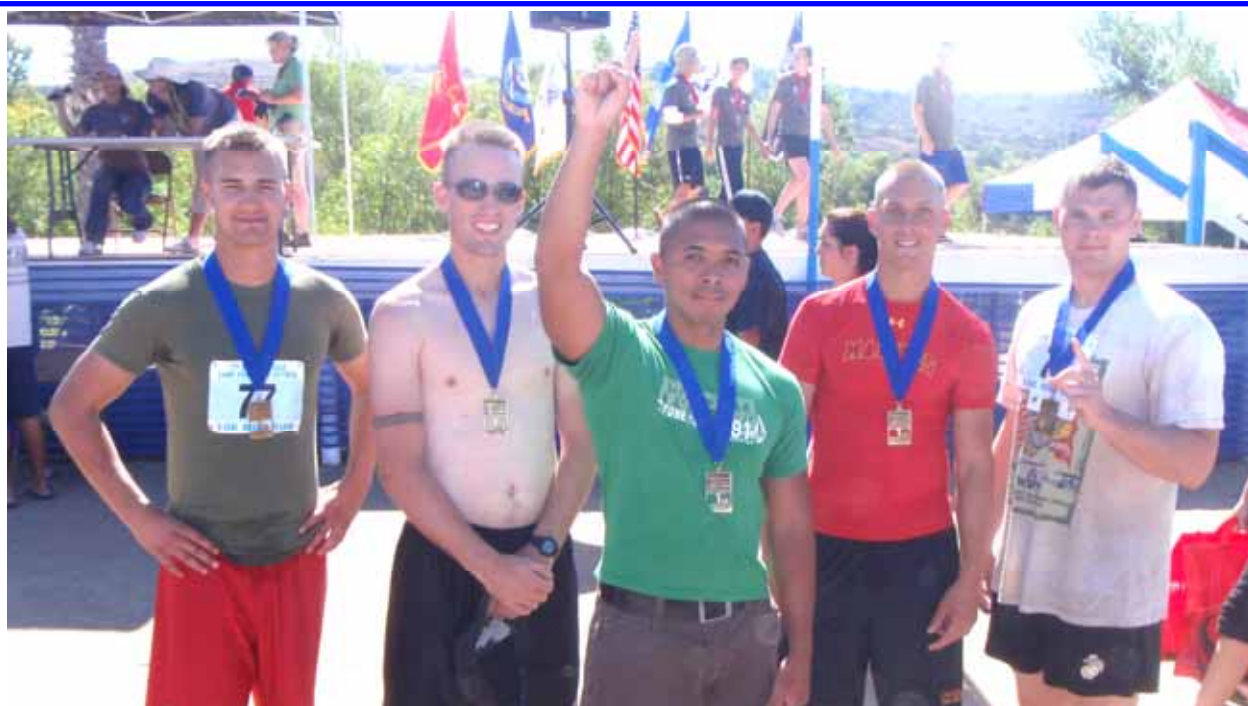
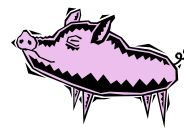
MCCES Marines recently volunteered to maintain those memorials by replacing missing flags and placards. The volunteers are led by MSgt Fickel, B Co IA Chief Instructor and Mr. Tolbert, BN HQ.

A Cruise for the Fallen will be held on 3 November to replace missing memorials from the 29 Palms Airport on route 62 east to Parker, AZ.

Contact Mr. Tolbert
for more information
at 830-5581.



"MUDHOGS"



From left to right: Cpl Neubecker, LCpl Somersalmi, Capt Gatongay, PFC lalonde, and Capt Williamson. Five Marines from Charlie Company finished first in both their team category and overall during the 17th Annual SDG&E ASYMCA Camp Pendleton Mud Run.

On October 18 a team of five Marines from Charlie Company, codenamed "Mudhogs," victoriously placed first in the "open" category and in the overall placements during the grueling 17th Annual SDG&E Armed Services YMCA Camp Pendleton Mud Run. The 10k course consisted of several hills, a few 6-foot walls, a 300-meter wade across a man-made lake, more hills and, of course, several mud pits. The team captain, Capt Gatongay of the Air Defense Training Section, credits a strong team comprised of Capt Williamson, Cpl Neubecker, LCpl Somersalmi and PFC Lalonde in pulling each other along to be the first team to cross the finish line.

Dramatically, the Mudhogs pulled off the win over the second place team, El Squid Row, which had claimed the first place spot four times previously in the last four consecutive Mud Runs.

The Mudhogs trained as a team every Saturday morning beginning in September, and during the six weeks leading up to the race, the Mudhogs went through two critical changes in the team line up. The original team that consisted entirely of permanent personnel lost two members: one received PCS orders and the other was injured playing football for MCCES. Thanks to the last minute additions of two ADTS students, LCpl Somersalmi and PFC

Lalonde, the team became more solid than any of its members could have imagined.

PFC Lalonde inadvertently became the "rabbit" for the rest of the team members to catch; he led the way and never once looked back until he reached the finish line and waited for the others before he crossed it. This was just the motivation the others needed to speed up and forget the exhaustion caused by the loose sand and the numerous long stretches of hills. The Mudhogs beat hundreds of other teams with a time of 57:48 in a sold-out race that included 4,000 runners. Great Job!



"You Will Always Find Us On The Job" 1921 & 1926

By Paul L. Stokes



Source: [Soldiers of the Sea, The United States Marine Corps, 1775-1962](#)
By Robert Debs Heinl, Jr., Colonel, USMC; Pages (251-252);
Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, Maryland, 1962

(Excerpted by Major Paul L. Stokes USMC on 12 June 2004)
Photograph from the Collection of Major Paul L. Stokes USMC



Guarding the United States Mails, 1921 and 1926. One of the most stirring orders ever received by U.S. Marines was issued on 11 November 1921 by Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby, himself a devoted Marine of World War I. The nation was in the grip of a crime wave highlighted by armed robberies of the U.S. Mail. Four days before "Ned" Denby penned his letter of instruction, President Harding had directed that the Marine Corps "protect the mails from depredations by robbers and bandits." Fifty-three officers and 2,200 enlisted men were already on watch in post offices, railway mail cars, and postal trucks throughout the country. Edwin Denby, who needed no ghost writer, sent this letter to his beloved Marines:

"To the Men of the Mail Guard

I am proud that my old Corps has been chosen for a duty so honorable as that of protecting the United States mail. I am very anxious that you shall successfully accomplish your mission. It is not going to be easy work. It will be dangerous and generally tiresome. You will know how to do it. Be sure you do it well. I know you will neither fear nor shirk any duty, however hazardous or exacting.

This particular work will lack the excitement and glamor of war duty, but it will be no less important. It has the same element of service to this country.

I look with proud confidence to you to show now the qualities that have made the Corps so well beloved by our fellow citizens.

You must be brave, as you always are. You must be constantly alert. You must, when on guard duty, keep your weapons in hand and, if attacked, shoot and shoot to kill! There is no compromise in this battle with the bandits.

If two Marines, guarding a mail car, are suddenly covered by a mail robber, neither must hold up his hands, both must begin shooting at once. One may get killed, but the other will get the robber and save the mail. When our men go in as guards over mail, that mail must be delivered or there must be a Marine dead at the post of duty.

To be sure of success, every Marine on this duty must be watchful as a cat, hour after hour, night after night, week after week. No Marine must drink a drop of intoxicating liquor. Every Marine must be most careful with whom he associates and what his occupations are off duty. There may be many tricks tried to get to you, and you must not be tricked. Look out for women. Never discuss the details of your duty with outsiders. Never give up to another the trust you are charged with.

Never forget that the honor of the Corps is in your keeping. You have been given a great trust. I am confident you will prove that it has not been misplaced.

I am proud of you and believe in you with all my heart."

Mail robberies came to an abrupt halt within days after the deployment of Marine guards was complete; in fact, not a single robber dared to try his luck against the Marines, and not a single piece of mail was lost to a robber during the succeeding four months while the Marines stood watch.

In October 1926, there was a recurrence of armed robbery of the U.S. Mail, and the Postmaster General asked for 2,500 officers and men of the Corps. They were promptly provided. Mail robberies again ceased with equal promptness.

NEED TO GET AWAY?

Submitted by Rodney baker

Discover a hidden retreat centered in the heart of the San Bernardino Mountains... a perfect getaway for a little rest and recreation. If you seek adventure and enjoy the outdoors, Big Bear is the perfect place for you. During the winter, enjoy skiing and snowboarding. After the snow melts, fishing, mountain biking, hiking and water skiing are popular. The Big Bear Recreational Facility is dedicated to providing affordable facilities for camping and lodging for active duty, retired military personnel, Reservists, DoD employees and their authorized family members.

The Big Bear Recreational Facility has eight cabins which may be reserved on a year round basis. Reservations begin the 1st business day of the month through the 4th business day of the month two months prior to the reservation month (*see priorities below); i.e.: 1st business day in March for a priority one customer to reserve any days in May.

Each cabin has a bedroom downstairs with a queen-size bed and armoire with dresser. The upstairs loft has two full-size beds and dresser. Bed linens, blankets, pillows, bath towels, hand towels, wash clothes and a bath mat are provided. The dining room has a table with seating for six. The living room has a sofa and loveseat with a coffee table, wood-burning fireplace, a 27" flat-screen television and DVD/VHS player. Each cabin kitchen is equipped with a refrigerator, gas range/oven, microwave oven, coffee maker and can opener. Cooking items such as pots and pans are provided as well as dishes and flatware for six. A charcoal grill and picnic table is provided for each cabin. All cabins are stocked with adequate cleaning equipment (vacuum, sponge, mop, broom, etc.). In addition, the Main Lodge has a limited supply of high chairs and playpens available for checkout.

Also available at the facility for rent are Campsites and RV spaces, fishing boats, and a pontoon boat at very competitive rates. The facility is conveniently located near lots of great restaurants and shopping. Please visit <http://www.mccsmiramar.com/bigbear.html> for more information on the facility, directions, and pricing. There is also a link to the website on the MCCES homepage under the "recreation" tab.

(858) 577-4126/4141 • Cabin Reservations Bldg. 2524 • Mon-Fri (9am-5pm)
(909) 866-3965 • Campsite Reservations • Mon-Sun (9am-5pm)

For more information on "What to do at Big Bear Lake", visit www.bigbearinfo.com at the Big Bear Lake Visitor's Center.



Activities at Big Bear



2008 MCCES MARINE CORPS BALL



2008 MCCES MARINE CORPS BALL



WELCOME CIVILIAN MARINE!

By Eileen J. Bower,



As the Civilian Career and Leadership Development (CCLD) Program administrator aboard the base, I welcome you to the program and I'm here to help guide you through the process of developing your leadership skills and provide guidance with regard to career development. Our civilian workforce is comprised of some of the best and brightest professionals in federal service. As part of the Marine Corps team, our "Civilian Marines" work to provide world-class support in all areas of the Mission of the Marine Corps. They provide continuity of our Marine Corps family and as such are committed to the core values of honor, courage and commitment. The CCLD Program provides an opportunity for activities to support the efforts of identified groups of "potential" leaders in our organization to

prepare themselves for future leadership roles.

The goal of the CCLD Program is to enhance the leadership skills and competencies of all civilian employees, from entry level to senior executive. The framework of the program is designed to give employees the opportunity to acquire leadership competencies at the appropriate level of their development. Although employees have the opportunity to compete for formal training, the leadership development model encourages employees to acquire their competencies through learning activities in addition to the classroom. The cornerstones of CCLD are self-assessment, mentoring, planning, and developmental assignments. Each CCLD participant is required to complete a self-assessment, work with a mentor and design an Individual Leadership Development Plan (ILDP).

It's up to each Civilian Marine to take the initiative, demonstrate capabilities and seize growth opportunities. Participants are responsible for their own career development. Participation in the CCLD Program is voluntary. Career and leadership development requires a commitment by the employee in preparing a realistic and focused ILDP, as well as support and "buy in" by civilian and military supervisors at all levels to help achieve the plan goals.

The vision of the CCLD Program is to be a vibrant and effective process that is recognized throughout the Marine Corps as an important and successful program for the development of civilian leaders.

WHAT CAN THE CCLD PROGRAM DO FOR PARTICIPANTS?

Participation in the CCLD Program offers participants continuous learning opportunities, low-cost/no-cost activities, resources, and a formal mentoring program. CCLD offers the opportunity for participants to expand their leadership knowledge, demonstrate their capabilities, increase their visibility, and provides career development guidance. In some cases, it may also provide networking contacts, career enhancement skills, and increase promotion opportunities.

WHAT CAN CCLD DO FOR CIVILIAN MARINES WHO ALREADY HOLD A SUPERVISORY POSITION?

For the supervisor, the CCLD Program will exercise and sharpen your leadership skills, increase your creativity and risk taking, offer advanced training opportunities, and increase productivity. You will also have the opportunity to network with other supervisors and managers on base to share ideas.

Prospective CCLD participants must:

*** Contact the organization's CCLD representative to register.

830-4533 eileen.bower@usmc.mil

*** Complete a 360 degree self-assessment to assess your present skill level. Can be found at the following website: <https://cwwdamanpower.usmc.mil>

*** Select a mentor you feel has the qualities to help you succeed.

*** Develop an Individual Leadership Development Plan (ILDP).

*** Follow your established leadership development plan by participating in growth opportunities and working with your mentor on improvement areas identified in your 360 degree assessment.

For more info please contact me at the above phone number or email address.



FOOTBALL, YOU BET!

By Capt E. Wheeler



The season started in late June. I was handed the job of Head Coach of MCCES football. Practice kicked off on July 7th, grueling 2 a days for 3 weeks. Finally the day came for Pad issue. The Marines were chomping at the bit to hit someone, something, hard and often. Full pad practices began. The team was beginning to come together as a force to be reckoned with.

First up was a scrimmage against 1st Tank Battalion. The MCCES team dominated the scrimmage scoring 3 times and not allowing a first down. Was this something that was to be expected during the season? That was the thought going through my head.

Next up came the Football Jamboree. During the initial scrimmage against MWSS 374, the team came out flat and mistake prone yet still managed a 8-6 win.

Again came 1st Tank Bn. MCCES bounced back and won 20-0 in another game with the defense dominating the game. Now I thought to myself, which MCCES team is the real MCCES team. We would find out a week later against MWSS 374.

The first game of the regular season started and the defense set the tone by forcing turnovers and wreaking havoc for the 374 offense. The MCCES offense began to click and scored 2 touchdowns, one run in by MGySgt Anthony Russell the MCCES quarterback and a long pass from Russell to PFC Jovan McKinley as well as a interception and punt returns for touchdowns by Cpl. Mike Dixon. MWSS 374 managed to score against the MCCES defense. Final Score MCCES 25 MWSS 374 8.

The following week MCCES had a familiar foe in 1st Tank Bn. The defense again dominated the game with many key plays. The offense put up 21 points and the defense gave up a late touchdown leading to a 21-6 win for MCCES.

Up next came the much talked about showdown, MCCES vs. Headquarters Bn, the base defending champs as well as the Best of the West winner from 2007. The MCCES offense began a march down the field at will, when MCCES fumbled a ball that was promptly scooped up by HQ BN and returned for a touchdown followed by a two point conversion. On the ensuing MCCES drive another fumble occurred. With the MCCES defense put in a bad spot on its own 19 yard line with a lethal HQ Bn offense looking to take a commanding early lead. Four plays later, after a tremendous defensive stand it was MCCES ball at its own 25. A battle of field position ensued, before MCCES finally broke through with a touchdown pass from Russell to McKinley again. MCCES was driving the ball down the field only to be stopped by the clock ending the first half. The second half started and the defensive struggle continued. A safety by Headquarters Bn, caused by a bad snap from the center to punter made the score 10-6 in Headquarters favor. MCCES began to chip its way down the field and scored the go ahead touchdown by GySgt James Griffin with 1:30 remaining in the game. HQ Bn ran back the kickoff to the MCCES 40 yard line, but the defense shut them down and kept the HQ Bn offense off of the scoreboard for a 12-10 win.

Up next was MWSS 374. MCCES led by backup Quarterback Sgt James Rambo, took the field. After some shakiness MCCES finally got on the board with a Field Goal kicked by Cpl Tobias Sheers. The ensuing kick off was an onside kick which was recovered by MCCES the promptly followed by a touchdown pass from Rambo to McKinley. Another field goal by Sheers and a late touchdown sealed the MCCES 20-0 win over MWSS 374. The most impressive aspect of this game was that the MCCES defense allowed only 1 first down. They also kept MWSS 374's offense from crossing the 50 yard line for the entire game.

Next game was again against 1st Tank Bn. MCCES kicked the ball off and following a 3 and out series by the MCCES defense took the ball from the Tanks 47 yard line. On MCCES' first offensive play Quarterback Anthony Russell hit a wide open Jovan McKinley for the opening score of the game. After another 3 and out series by the dominating MCCES defense. The offense ran for a first down and then another on consecutive plays. On the third play of the drive, RB Quron Douglas Green broke lose for a 44 yard touchdown and the rout was on. The first half ended with MCCES up 23-0. MCCES went on to score 21 more points in the second half and did not give up any 1st downs. The final score MCCES 44 1st Tank Bn 0, the third consecutive shutout for the MCCES defense.

Approaching the Future with Hope

At the time of this writing, we are approaching the national election within just a few days. I am not at all certain about who will be our next commander-in-chief, but I am quite certain that, whoever it is, our next president will very likely have to lead our country through some very difficult times – if the news is any indication. All you have to do is turn on the radio or television to hear about our country's distressing economic situation, political troubles in the Middle East and throughout the entire world, and all kinds of other things besides. At the present time, the results of the upcoming election are very uncertain, but the prospective challenges that await our next president – and us – seem to be much more certain.

Even so, this is not necessarily a bad thing because troubles – or challenges – often bring about unexpected blessings, which is something familiar to Marine Corps ethos. In Christian Scripture, the apostle Paul remarks: “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us – they help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation [or *hope*]. And this expectation [or *hope*] will not disappoint us...” (Romans 5: 3-5, New Living Translation). In other words, there is something *hopeful* to be gained from facing and overcoming the various obstacles or challenges that we encounter in life – both as individuals and as nations – because these very troubling *outward* things also tend to test us and – hopefully – bring out our utmost and *inner* best! Moreover, those who do not give up and remain faithful are assured that they will not be disappointed when what they are hoping for ultimately comes to pass – so, whatever happens in the future, do not give up and *Semper Fi*!

Also, for those who are open to it, our problems and trials can help us to look beyond the questions and finiteness of ourselves for answers that can only be found in the One who is infinite. C.S. Lewis, who also authored the *Chronicles of Narnia*, once wrote: “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world” (C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*, 1962). Perhaps God is saying something significant to us, both as individuals and as a nation, that holds a more divine and hopeful purpose. If so, are we listening?

May God bless us, MCCES, our Marine Corps, and our United States of America as we enter into both the November election period and the hopeful *Holiday Season* beyond!

by Chaplains Hester

IMPORTANT CIVILIAN INFORMATION

From Donna Bullen

- **HEALTH FAIR:**

The annual Health Fair will be held on 19 November from 100-1300 in Bldg 1551, HRO Training Room; more information to follow on this important event.



* **MCCES INTRANET SITE:** The place to go for all your benefits information and to enroll under any of the health care programs:

<http://mcces.nmci.usmc.mil/rd1/civpers/employee.asp>

HAILS, FAREWELLS, PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

HAILS

Capt DE Williams
WO MR O'Brien
GySgt RJ Callier
GySgt AN Werhanowicz
SSgt WA Bradley
SSgt P Dinkins
SSgt MA Ortiz
SSgt HJ Cruz
Sgt FD Favors, Jr.
Sgt RA Hundley, Jr.
Sgt JR McNellie, Jr.
Sgt ZJ Trudgeon
Sgt A Whitehead, Jr.
Cpl TA King
LCpl E Dominguez
LCpl EJ Pinckney
PFC ML Mahoney

1st LT T Tran
MSgt RL Paschall
GySgt J Guzman
GySgt DE Worley
SSgt JC Brogdon
SSgt KP Elm
SSgt KJ Pierson
Sgt AL Bodani
Sgt D Garcia
Sgt JR Kratzer
Sgt CL Orellana
Sgt TK Ussery
Cpl JD Hunt
Cpl JM McGuire
LCpl AD Gritzmacher
PFC RE Frayre, Jr.

CWO4 JF McAlexander, Jr.
GySgt CL Brown
GySgt AJ Thompson
SSgt EB Arthur
SSgt JB Dean
SSgt JA Grivette
SSgt DA Wegner
Sgt CM Collins
Sgt JD Hull
Sgt JM Leete
Sgt AK Scott
Sgt RB Ventura
Cpl AC Johnson
Cpl C Thompson
LCpl CM Ha
PFC JA Juaregui

PROMOTIONS

MGySgt R Paschall	1 st Sgt C Lawson
Sgt B Bucklew	Sgt T Pruitt
Cpl J Jenkins	Cpl F Ortizmarquez
Cpl D Rivers	LCpl L Aguilar
LCpl J Burak	LCpl C Ha
LCpl C Leonard	LCpl E Pickney

FAREWELLS

1 st Sgt C Lawson	MGySgt S Felder
GySgt B Peterson	SSgt C Alegre
SSgt C Bartosiewicz	SSgt C Bond
SSgt J Jones	SSgt T Matteson
SSgt E Sierra	Sgt Baker
Sgt J Dotch	Sgt H Deltoro
Sgt M Schoenthaler	Sgt W Gunn
Sgt R Smith	Cpl H Ascencio
Cpl G Flores	Cpl F Gardemal
LCpl M Massingill	LCpl M Wiright
Pvt A Siegel	

CIVILIANS

Hails

Brittiany Glanton
Robert Terlerski
David Garcia
Sundri Ward
Jehu Bloodworth

Farewells

Jeremy King
Herbert Peterson
Daniel Coolbeth

Photo:

Civilian Appreciation Day was celebrated on October 31st. The civilian Marines were served lunch by Col Nally and given a heartfelt "Thank You" speech from Col Nally.



MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-
ELECTRONICS SCHOOL
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA

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Or write to
Reprographics, Box 788251
Twentynine Palms, CA
92278-8251

"Watch Your Head Ned"



05/28/2008 - U.S. Marines assigned to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5 tear down an omni-directional emitter radio antenna on Combat Outpost 5 in H4, Iraq, May 28, 2008. Coalition forces are turning over responsibility of the outpost to Iraqi National Police and provincial security forces. DoD photo by Cpl. Seth Maggard, U.S. Marine Corps. (Released) VIRIN: 080528-M-1391M-017

We are on the web!

<https://mcces.nmci.usmc.mil/rd1/intranet.asp>

BE THANKFUL!

"Now that we are rapidly approaching the holiday season, it is a time of year to be especially thankful. So, I want each and everyone of you know that I truly appreciate your efforts ensuring MCCES functions well and professionally and that you all do a marvelous job producing young Marine graduates who are mentally, morally, and physically ready for the Operating Forces.

Please take the time to thank your co-workers and

to take the time you need off to be with your family this season.

Our Safety Program has been recognized your senior leadership in the Corps - our record reflects you do a tremendous job taking care of each other - please continue this throughout the season.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and God Bless each and everyone of you.

Lastly support our MCCES FOOTBALL

TEAM as we venture into the Post Season Tournament."

Semper Fi
Col Kevin Nally

